

**Fact Sheet  
August 2004**

# **Former Western Lead and Metal Site Cleanup Proposed**

**LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA**



***Please Comment on Proposed Removal Action Plan***

*DTSC is one of six  
Boards and  
Departments within  
the California  
Environmental  
Protection Agency.  
The Department's  
mission is to restore,  
protect and enhance  
the environment,  
to ensure public health,  
environmental  
quality and  
economic vitality,  
by regulating  
hazardous waste,  
conducting and  
overseeing  
cleanups, and  
developing  
and promoting  
pollution prevention.*

**State of California**



**California  
Environmental  
Protection Agency**



## **Public Comment Period August 23 to September 22, 2004**

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) encourages the public to review and comment on the Draft Removal Action Workplan (RAW) for the Western Lead and Metal Site. The site is located at 2182 E.11th Street in Los Angeles, CA, 90012. DTSC will conduct a 30-day public comment period from August 23, 2004 to September 22, 2004.

**Please mail or email comments to the following address no later than September 22, 2004, with your name and address:**

**Ms. Jessy Fierro, Project Manager  
Department of Toxic Substances Control  
1101 N. Grandview Avenue  
Glendale, California 91201**

**Email: [jfierro@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:jfierro@dtsc.ca.gov)**

## **Contaminated Soil Found on Former Lead Smelter Property**

Our agency is sending you this fact sheet to inform you of the results of soil investigations conducted on the former Western Lead and Metal Company site (a.k.a., International Lead Company) and surrounding area; and the plan for an environmental cleanup (called a Removal Action Workplan) of the contaminated soil in the area. This fact sheet tells you the history of site, what we found, how we plan to clean it up, future activities and how you can get more information.

The California Environmental Protection Agency, DTSC protects public health and the environment. Our role is overseeing the soil investigation and cleanup actions for contaminated soil in the area.

## **Site History**

The one-third acre site is in an industrial area of downtown Los Angeles. It was formerly used for lead smelting, battery recycling, and die-casting operations. The site is currently occupied by G.C. Pallet Company, a wooden pallet storage and repair facility. Since 1991, several soil investigations were conducted on the site and surrounding area.

## Lead and Arsenic Found Onsite

Preliminary soil investigations at the site and in the immediate vicinity found lead and arsenic contamination at levels that could pose a potential health risk in limited areas. As a result, in 1996, the contaminated area (property) within the site was paved with three inches of asphalt to prevent any public exposure to soils.

In 1997, DTSC required Emergency Removal Actions at four areas surrounding the site. These areas included the Union Pacific right-of-way on the eastern border of the site, areas of exposed soil along the western and southern site borders, and the soil area of the residential lot at 2151 E. 14<sup>th</sup> Street. The emergency actions involved the removal of lead and arsenic contaminated soil on the four areas and disposal of the soil at approved facilities.

An extensive Remedial Investigation (RI) was conducted from 1999 to 2002, to identify and evaluate the potential health risks associated with the former industrial activities on the site. The RI involved the collection of soil and soil vapor samples at the site and surrounding area. More than 100 soil lead samples were collected during the investigation.

Soil sampling results showed high levels of lead and arsenic on the property. Both of these metal substances can cause health problems if people are in contact with high levels over many years. "Contact" means you get them on your skin, breathe dust from contaminated soil, or ingest (eat) soil that has these metals by getting it on your hands and then handling food or putting them in your mouth.

## Proposed Cleanup Plan

The following methods are recommended for cleanup:

- Capping (covering) the property area with a four-inch layer of asphalt.
- Removing soil with high levels of lead in nine planter boxes located along Wilson Street and 14<sup>th</sup> Street. These areas will be backfilled with clean soil.
- Transport the contaminated soil to a state licensed disposal facility.

In addition to capping, excavation and offsite disposal, a land use covenant (deed restriction) will be placed on the property to prohibit residential or sensitive land use development in the future.

## What You Can Expect to See in Your Neighborhood

If the Draft Removal Action Workplan is approved, you can expect to see the following cleanup activities:

- A work notice will be distributed to the community prior to capping and soil removal activities taking place.
- Onsite construction equipment will in operate from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. M-F.
- Personnel on the site will use standard asphalt paving/rolling machinery as well as safety gear.
- As the contaminated soil is dug up, it will be placed directly on the truck and immediately covered to prevent wind erosion or contact with rain.
- Dust will be controlled by light spraying of excavation areas with water and reduced speeds of vehicles and equipment.
- No traffic delays are expected from trucks driving to and from the site.
- The trucks will use 11<sup>th</sup> Street to Wilson Street and travel northeast to the 10 freeway for the disposal facility.

## California Environmental Quality Act – Notice of Exemption

DTSC has prepared a Draft Notice of Exemption (NOE) for this project pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act. The Draft NOE document states that the project will not have a significant effect on the environment because of the relatively small volume, short project duration, and controlled manner in which contaminated soil will be excavated, loaded onto a truck and taken off-site for disposal.

## Future Activities

After the public comment period ends, DTSC will review and consider all comments received and make a final determination to approve, make changes or disapprove the Draft Removal Action Workplan. Anyone who submits their comments and address will receive DTSC's Response to Comments document. This document provides all of the comments submitted during the comment period and DTSC's response to those comments. A copy of "The Response to Comments" will be placed in the Information Repositories which have been established for the site.

## Where to Find Site Related Documents

The proposed cleanup plan is described in detail in the "Removal Action Workplan" for the Western Lead and Metals site. This document also describes how we looked at the possible health risks.

All the documents about this site are available for your review at the Little Tokyo Public Library located at 244 S. Alameda Street, in Los Angeles. Call (213) 612-0525 to for hours they are open.

We also have this information at our agency's office at 1011 N. Grandview Avenue in Glendale. Please call Ms. Jone Barrio in the Regional Records File Room for an appointment at (818) 551-2886. The file room hours are 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.

## Who to Call at Our Agency

If you have any questions about the investigation or cleanup at this site, please call the following persons at our agency:

Ms. Jessy Fierro  
DTSC Project Manager  
(818) 551-2174

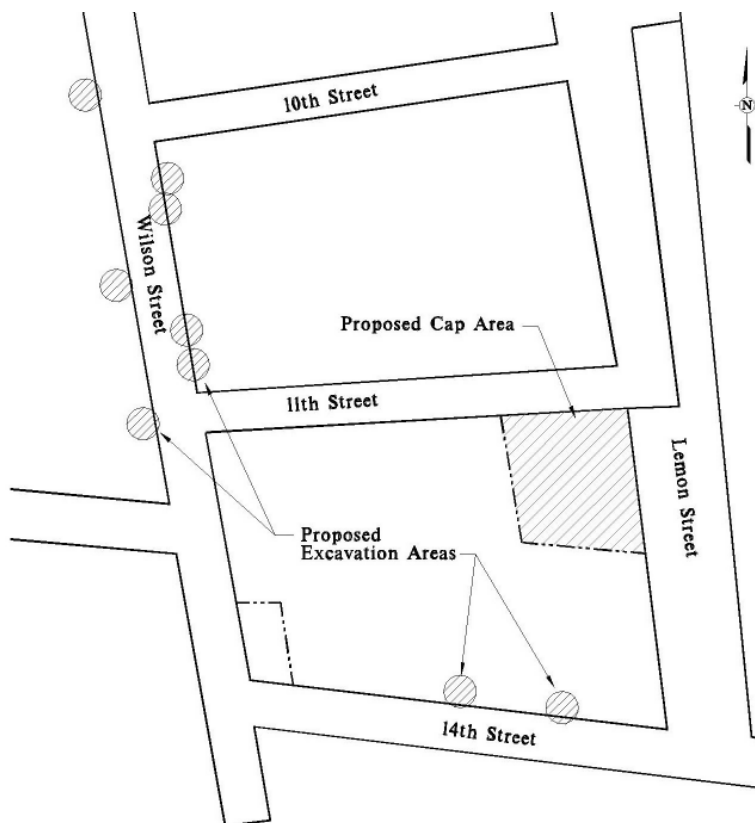
Ms. Treva Miller  
DTSC Public Participation Specialist  
(818) 551-2846  
*Si desea información en español, comuníquese con: Sr. Jesús Cruz, Especialista en Participación Pública del DTSC, al (818) 551-2875.*

**Media Inquiries:** Please contact Jeanne Garcia, Public Information Officer at (818) 551-2176.

*For more information about the DTSC, please visit our website at [www.dtsc.ca.gov](http://www.dtsc.ca.gov).*

## Notice to Hearing Impaired Individuals

TDD users can obtain additional information about the cleanup by calling the California State Relay Service at (1-888-877-5378) to reach DTSC Public Participation Specialist, Treva Miller, at (818) 551-2846.



## COMMENT FORM

If you use this form to send us your comments, please include your name and address. All written comments must be postmarked no later than September 22, 2004. Please mail this form to:  
Ms. Jessy Fierro, Department of Toxic Substances Control, 1011 N. Grandview Avenue  
Glendale, CA 91201

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Affiliation (if any): \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: (If you need more space, please feel free to use another sheet of paper)

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*[Note: Your comments will be considered public records for this site and, if requested, may be subject to release.]*